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July 2021

//EO Message

So much news to share!

The work of the collective continues across the region and there have been many contributors - thank-you! Beyond the Bell received \$1 million in the State Budget for the period of 3 years. We are looking forward to working with the Department of Education and Training and other key partners and stakeholders across the region to enable *all children and young people to be connected to education and engaged in their learning*. Our new 2021-2023 Strategy ensures we are focused and have a clear direction to continue the great work.

Work on regional projects has been significant. The Youth Conversations Project has been completed and we are now charged with considering phase 2. The Superheroes Campaign, focusing on school readiness, is about to begin the design phase with *yelldesign* creating the animations. We are beginning to explore new initiatives in response to the impact of COVID-19 for children and young people connecting and engaging with education.

Locally, the Project Control Group for the Engagement in Learning – Glenelg project are planning phase 2. Casterton have a new Community Development worker and the Beyond the Bell Regional Team continue to connect with networks and working groups in each of the six local government areas to determine initiatives and actions to support children and young people in their community.

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seeking further expressions of interest, especially from young people (18-25 years) to join 'The Table'. Keep connected via our website and social media platforms to find out more.

Until next time, take care.

Kate Roache
Executive Officer





//Youth Conversations

Beyond the Bell are pleased to share with you the Youth Conversations

Research Report and Executive Summary available on our website – HERE.

711 Young people across Southwest Victoria aged 12-19 years contributed to

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STRAND 1: Feeling connected to the community and desirable community attributes.

STRAND 2: Staying in school, pursuing further education, and training, imagining a desirable future.

STRAND 3: Changes brought about by the pandemic and learnings from them.

Young people have been open and honest in their contributions, and this is reflected in the report - the report is their voice. The 38 learnings and 9 recommendations are an opportunity for us to consider how we may value add to initiatives already in existence, to work with community to determine new initiatives and to plan the next phase in response to the recommendations.

A Community Forum is planned for Thursday 5 August: **1.00-2.00pm** to provide an overview of the project, the learnings, recommendations and where to next. Check our socials and website for confirmation and further details of how to register for this event.



//The Collaborative Table

We welcome Emily Falla (Manager of Aboriginal Programs Noongar/Wongi; South West Health Care) to The Collaborative Table. Emily is '...excited to bring our Indigenous young people into focus and help create strong Indigenous leaders for our communities and future. She is eager to be a part of a solution and help guide our young people on their education journey whatever that might look like'.

The Collaborative Table recently reviewed their purpose, guiding principles and values. They are now working on the 12 month action plan.

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Molly Dennis Welcome!

//Casterton News

Beyond the Bell welcomes Molly Dennis to the role of Community Development worker with SGGPCP. Beyond the Bell has contributed to this role as it has a strong alignment to our 2021-2023 Strategy and purpose and builds on the work we have been connected with over a number of years in the Casterton community.



Molly is working in this role on a Thursday and Friday and can be contacted at handsupcasterton@gmail.com

//Volunteer opportunity supporting career pathways for young people

Volunteer opportunity supporting career pathways for young people

Have you been looking for a way to assist young people in their career journey? South West Local Learning and Employment Network, in partnership with Leadership Great South Coast and Beyond the Bell, is coordinating a brand new program to provide support to young people as they learn more about applying for jobs, application preparation and interview techniques. We're seeking expressions of interest from people who can provide assistance as interviewers on mock interview panels, conducted as part of careers education. This is a great way to give back to your community, learn more about young

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//Have Your Say on Education Reform

Victorians are being encouraged to have their say on the Andrews Labor Government's major reforms of school-based vocational education and senior secondary education.

The reforms will see the integration of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) into the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). This will give Victorian students high-quality, practical skills that deliver a pathway to Victoria's most in-demand jobs.

A new foundation certificate will be established from 2023 to support students in all settings to successfully transition to entry level VET or employment after finishing school, particularly students with a disability and additional needs.

The Government is keen to hear from students, parents, caregivers, and other stakeholders and educators. To participate and give feedback on Senior Secondary Pathways Reform, go to engage.vic.gov.au/have-your-say-senior-secondary-pathways-reform Surveys close 4th August.



At the June meeting the Board thanked Leeona van Duynhoven for her time and valuable service on the Board over the past three and a half years.

We welcome Georgia Quill (General Manager Community Services, Barwon South West Region, Department of Justice and Community Safety) to the Board in a casual appointed position until the next AGM. Georgia is looking forward to working with the other Board members to progress the critical work of Beyond the Bell in the Great South Coast.

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//Membership

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Become a member of Beyond the Bell. Membership entitles invitation to special events and voting rights the AGM. Most importantly, membership assists in the delivery of Beyond the Bell activities and programs which are all aimed at supporting children and young people to succeed in education.

\$10 - Yearly Individual Membership

\$50 - Yearly Organisation Membership

(NB: Membership is for financial year 1 July 2021-30 June 2022)

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PURPOSE

To actively work with communities to enable children and young people in South West Victoria to engage in education and successfully transition through key stages of their learning.

VISION

All children and young people are connected to education and engaged in their learning.

visit btb.org.au

Want to get involved with Beyond the Bell?

Email <u>info@btb.org.au</u> or call on 0491 722 069 to discuss the possibilities.







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